

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 3, approximately line 9, please delete the Heading "Description of Preferred Embodiments" and replace with:

**DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS**

On page 3, following the heading "Description of Exemplary Embodiments," please insert the following:

Throughout the figures, certain reference characters are used to illustrate various exemplary aspects of the invention. The following reference characters are used in various figures: ~~XX, NG, OK, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub>, V<sub>5</sub>, PON, "0", EN, V<sub>pp</sub> and V<sub>ppc</sub>~~. The previous reference characters are to be given the following non-limiting, exemplary meanings:

~~TP~~ ~~XX is an algebraic value held in the counter 20 prior to the counter 20 having received the "clear signal," CL. NG is a value of voltage that is not near enough to the exemplary voltage V<sub>ppc</sub> to be acceptable. OK is a value of voltage that is near enough to the exemplary voltage V<sub>ppc</sub> to be acceptable. V<sub>1</sub> through V<sub>7</sub> represent different voltages created by voltage divider 14 through resistors R<sub>1</sub> through R<sub>7</sub>, respectively. PON is a power-on signal representing the fact that power has been turned on to the device. "0" (particularly as shown in Figure 6), illustrates the fact that the "EN" signal (enablement signal) is currently at a "zero" or "low" state. "EN" is a signal generated by the tester 200 that enables the generation of a sampling signal S<sub>2</sub> and a count-up (or count-down) signal S<sub>3</sub>. V<sub>pp</sub> is a step-up (or step-down) voltage, and V<sub>ppc</sub> is an exemplary voltage against which V<sub>pp</sub> is compared. Further exemplary embodiments are both illustrated in the figures and described in the following written description.~~